

REMARKS

Status

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated January 12, 2007, in which Claims 1, 4-8, and 11 were rejected and Claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 were objected to. Claims 2 and 9 have been canceled; Claims 1 and 7 have been amended; and no new claims have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-11 are pending in the application, and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-3 and 9-10 stand objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feature of allowable Claim 2, and Claim 2 has been cancelled. Similarly, Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the feature of allowable Claim 9, and Claim 9 has been cancelled. As amended, Claims 1 and 7 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Allowable Claims 3 and 10 are dependent on rewritten independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and as such, Claims 3 and 10 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 4-8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,912,740 (*Liese Jr*) in view of Japanese reference JP 2001083288A (*Yamashita*).

In order to promote prosecution of the present application, and without conceding either the correctness of the Office Action's position or the need for amendment for patentability reasons, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 7 to incorporate the features of allowable Claims 2 and 9, respectively. As such, amended Claims 1 and 7 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 4-6 are dependent on Claim 1, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 1, Claims 4-6 are also believed to be patentable.

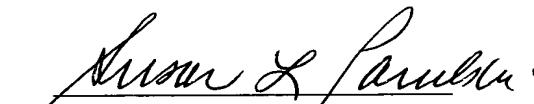
Claims 8 and 11 are dependent on Claim 7, and therefore include all the features thereof. For the reasons set forth above with regard to Claim 7, Claims 8 and 11 are also believed to be patentable.

Summary

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this communication to Eastman Kodak Company Deposit Account No. 05-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



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